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Appln No. 09/990,903

Amdt date March 4, 2004

Reply to Office action of December 23, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A telescopic drawer slide comprising:

a first drawer slide having a longitudinal length with a web and slideways along the longitudinal margins of the web;

a second drawer slide having a longitudinal length with a web and slideways along the longitudinal margins of the web, the second drawer slide being nested within the slideways of the first drawer slide;

a third drawer slide having a longitudinal length with a web and slider sections along the longitudinal margins of the web, the third drawer slide being nested within the slideways of the second drawer slide; and

a lock between the second drawer slide and the first drawer slide, the lock comprising a tab rotatably coupled to the second drawer slide and an emboss on the first drawer slide;

wherein the emboss comprises a ramp in the pathway of a first area of the tab and a catch, such that the ramp guides the tab over the emboss and the tab moves into locking engagement with the catch by the action of its own weight as the tab is moved past the emboss in an opening direction, and wherein a portion of the third slide is in the pathway of a second area of the tab and contacts the second area of the tab to move the tab out of engagement with the catch as the third slide is moved in a closing direction ~~wherein a movement of the second drawer slide in a closing direction causes the tab to lockingly engage~~

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~~the emboss, thereby preventing the second drawer slide from further movement in the closing direction, and wherein the tab moves from a neutral position to a locking position by the action of its own weight when the tab is moved past the emboss in an opening direction, opposite the closing direction.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Withdrawn) The telescopic drawer slide of claim 1 wherein the tab is biased by a spring.

4. (Currently Amended) The telescopic drawer slide of claim 1 wherein a said movement of the third drawer slide that causes the tab to move out of engagement with the catch allows ~~in the closing direction causes the tab to disengage the emboss, thereby allowing said further movement of the second drawer to~~ slide past the emboss in the closing direction.

5. (Previously Presented) The telescopic drawer slide of claim 4 wherein the emboss comprises an angled head portion and a edge portion connected to the head portion, wherein said movement of the second drawer slide in the closing direction causes the tab to lockingly engage the edge portion of the emboss.

6. (Withdrawn) The telescopic drawer slide of claim 1 further comprising a lock between the third drawer slide and the second drawer slide, the lock having a biased tab on the third drawer slide and a hole in the second drawer slide, wherein the biased tab enters the hole when the third drawer slide is withdrawn from the second drawer slide.

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7. (Previously Presented) The telescopic drawer slide of claim 1 wherein the slideways of the first drawer slide have a lateral portion that is bowed toward the slideways of the second drawer slide, and wherein the bowed lateral portion defines a contact area for sliding contact with the slideway of the second drawer slide and a reservoir portion adjacent to the contact area.

8. (Previously Presented) The telescopic drawer slide of claim 7 wherein the slideways of the second drawer slide have a lateral portion that defines a sliding area for sliding contact with the slider sections of the first of the second drawer slide and a reservoir portion adjacent to the sliding area.

9. (Withdrawn) The telescopic drawer slide of claim 1 further comprising a lock between the third drawer slide and the second drawer slide, the lock having a biased arm with a cutout rotatably coupled to the third drawer slide and a tab on the second drawer slide oriented toward the third drawer slide; wherein the tab enters the cutout as the third drawer slide is withdrawn from the second drawer slide.

10. (Withdrawn) The telescopic drawer slide of claim 9 further comprising a lock release adjacent to the biased arm wherein the lock release moves the biased arm to move the cutout away from the tab.

11. (Withdrawn) The telescopic drawer slide of claim 1 further comprising a stop between the second drawer slide and the first drawer slide; wherein a portion of the web of the second drawer slide is punched toward the first drawer slide and

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a portion of the web of the first drawer slide is punched toward the second drawer slide.

12. (Original) The telescopic drawer slide of claim 1 wherein the web of the second drawer slide has a hat section extending along the longitudinal length, the hat section clearing the emboss on the first drawer slide; and

the web of the third drawer slide has a hat section extending along the longitudinal length, the hat section of the third drawer slide clearing and surrounding the hat section of the second drawer slide.

13. (Previously Presented) The telescopic drawer slide according to claim 1 wherein the first drawer slide, the second drawer slide and the third drawer slide all fit within a space between a drawer and a cabinet of about 0.375 inches wide by about 1 inch in height.

14. (Withdrawn) A telescopic drawer slide comprising:
a first drawer slide having a longitudinal length with a web and arms along the longitudinal margins of the web;

a second drawer slide having a longitudinal length with a web, and arms along the longitudinal margins of the web, the second drawer slide being nested within the arms of the first drawer slide;

a third drawer slide having a longitudinal length with a web, and arms along the longitudinal margins of the web, the third drawer slide being nested within the arms of the second drawer slide; and

a lock between the second drawer slide and the first drawer slide, the lock having a lever biased toward the first drawer

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slide coupled to the second drawer slide, a tab coupled to the lever, and a hole in the first drawer slide;

wherein the tab moves into the hole in the first drawer slide as the second drawer slide is withdrawn from the first drawer slide, thereby preventing the second drawer slide being closed relative to the first drawer slide.

15. (Withdrawn) The telescopic drawer slide of claim 14 further comprising a c-shaped tab in the web of the third drawer slide biased toward the second drawer slide, wherein the c-shaped tab moves the lever and the tab away from the first drawer slide allowing the second drawer slide to be closed relative to the first drawer slide member.

16. (Withdrawn) The telescopic drawer slide of claim 15 further comprising a detent, the detent having a hole in the lever and a raised bump on the c-shaped tab such that when the third drawer slide is closed within the second drawer slide the bump fits inside of the hole in the lever preventing movement of the third drawer slide relative to the second drawer slide until a predetermined amount of force is used to pull the third drawer slide from the second drawer slide.

17. (Withdrawn) The telescopic drawer slide of claim 16 wherein the predetermined amount of force necessary to move the bump from the hole in lever causes the second drawer slide to be withdrawn from the first drawer slide prior to the withdrawing of the third drawer slide from the second drawer slide.

18. (Withdrawn) The telescopic drawer slide of claim 14 wherein the arms of the first drawer slide have a lateral portion that is bowed toward the arms of the second drawer

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slide; and the arms of the second drawer slide are nested within the arms of the first drawer slide defining a contact area along a tip of the bowed portion of the arms of the first drawer slide and defining a reservoir adjacent to the contact area along the tip of the bowed portion of the arms of the first drawer slide.

19. (Withdrawn) The telescopic drawer slide of claim 18 wherein the arms of the third drawer slide have a lateral portion that is bowed toward the arms of the second drawer slide; and the arms of the third drawer slide are nested within the arms of the second drawer slide defining a contact area along a tip of the bowed portion of the arms of the third drawer slide and defining a reservoir adjacent to the contact area along the tip of the bowed portion of the arms of the third drawer slide.

20. (Withdrawn) The telescopic drawer slide of claim 14 further comprising a lock between the third drawer slide and the second drawer slide, the lock having a biased tab on the third drawer slide and a hole in the second drawer slide, wherein the biased tab enters the hole when the third drawer slide is withdrawn from the second drawer slide.

21. (Withdrawn) The telescopic drawer slide of claim 14 further comprising a lock between the third drawer slide and the second drawer slide, the lock having a biased arm with a cutout rotatably coupled to the third drawer slide and a tab on the second drawer slide oriented toward the third drawer slide; wherein the tab enters the cutout as the third drawer slide is withdrawn from the second drawer slide.

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22. (Withdrawn) The telescopic drawer slide of claim 21 further comprising a lock release adjacent to the biased arm wherein the lock release moves the biased arm to move the cutout away from the tab.

23. (Withdrawn) The telescopic drawer slide of claim 14 further comprising a stop between the second drawer slide and the first drawer slide; wherein a portion of the web of the second drawer slide is punched toward the first drawer slide and a portion of the web of the first drawer slide is punched toward the second drawer slide.

24. (Withdrawn) A telescopic drawer slide according to claim 14 wherein the first drawer slide, the second drawer slide and the third drawer slide all fit within a space between a drawer and a cabinet of about 0.375 inches wide by about 1 inch in height.

25. (Withdrawn) A telescopic drawer slide comprising:
a first drawer slide having a longitudinal length with a web and arcuate arms along the longitudinal margins of the web;
a second drawer slide having a longitudinal length with a web, and arcuate arms along the longitudinal margins of the web, the second drawer slide being nested within the arcuate arms of the first drawer slide;
a third drawer slide having a longitudinal length with a web, and arcuate arms along the longitudinal margins of the web, the third drawer slide being nested within the arcuate arms of the second drawer slide;
a stop for preventing the second drawer slide from being withdrawn completely from the first drawer slide;

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a means for locking the first drawer slide to the second drawer slide in an open position until the third drawer slide is closed; and

a means for removably locking the second drawer slide to the third drawer slide.

26. (Withdrawn) The telescopic drawer slide of claim 25 further comprising a means for removably locking the second drawer slide to the third drawer slide until the second drawer slide is withdrawn from the first drawer slide a predetermined amount.

27. (Previously Presented) The telescopic drawer slide according to claim 1, wherein the tab is substantially symmetric.

28. (Previously Presented) The telescopic drawer slide according to claim 1, wherein the emboss is substantially symmetric.

29. (Previously Presented) The telescopic drawer slide according to claim 28, wherein the emboss is substantially arrow shaped.

30. (Currently Amended) A telescopic drawer slide comprising:

a first drawer slide having a longitudinal length with a web and slideways along the longitudinal margins of the web;

a second drawer slide having a longitudinal length with a web and slideways along the longitudinal margins of the web, the second drawer slide being nested within the slideways of the first drawer slide;

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a third drawer slide having a longitudinal length with a web and slider sections along the longitudinal margins of the web, the third drawer slide being nested within the slideways of the second drawer slide; and

a lock between the second drawer slide and the first drawer slide, the lock comprising a tab rotatably coupled to the second drawer slide and an emboss on the first drawer slide, wherein the tab is moveable from a neutral position to a locking position by the action of its own weight and wherein a movement of the second drawer slide in a closing direction causes the tab to lockingly engage the emboss, thereby preventing the second drawer slide from further movement in the closing direction, wherein a movement of the third slide member causes a contact with a second area of the tab to move the tab from the locking position to the neutral position.

31. (Previously Presented) The telescopic drawer slide according to claim 30, wherein the tab is substantially symmetric.

32. (Previously Presented) The telescopic drawer slide according to claim 30, wherein the emboss is substantially symmetric.

33. (Previously Presented) The telescopic drawer slide according to claim 32, wherein the emboss is substantially arrow shaped.